

WEBSTER'S NEW WORLDTM COLLEGE DICTIONARY

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degree, as of despair b) a low state or condition [shocked that their principles had fallen to such depths] 7 reserve strength, as of suitable substitute players for a team —in depth in a thorough and comprehensive way [analysis in depth] —out of (or beyond) one's depth 1 in water too deep for one 2 past one's ability or understanding

depth charge (or **bomb**) a powerful explosive charge that is dropped from a ship or airplane and explodes under water: used esp. against submarines

depth of field *Optics*: a zone in which objects are in sharp focus (the larger the aperture, the shallower the depth of field)

depth perception ability to see objects in perspective

depth psychology any system of psychology, as psychoanalysis, dealing with the processes of the unconscious

depu-rate (dep'yoo rāt') vt. -rat'ed, -rat'-ing [*< ML depuratus; pp. of depurare, to purify < L de-, intens. + purare, to purify < purus, PURE*] to purify

depu-ta-tion (dep'yoo tā'shən, -yō-) n. [*ME deputacioun < LL deputatio*] 1 a deputing or being deputed 2 a group of persons, or one person, appointed to represent others

de-pute (dē pyoot', di-) vt. -put'ed, -put'-ing [*ME deputer < OFr deputer < L deputare, to cut off, detach, hence depute < de-, from + putare, lit., to cleanse, lop off: see PURE*] 1 to give (authority, functions, etc.) to someone else as deputy 2 to appoint as one's substitute, agent, etc.

depu-tize (dep'yoo tiz', -yō-) vt. -tized', -tiz'-ing to appoint as deputy —vi. to act as deputy —dep'-u-ti-za'-tion n.

depu-ty (dep'yoo tē, -yō; -et ē) n., pl. -ties [*ME depute < Anglo-Fr depute, pp. of OFr deputer: see DEPUTE*] 1 a person appointed to act as a substitute for, or as an assistant to, another 2 a member of any of certain national legislatures or their lower houses, as in France, Italy, or Albania —adj. acting as deputy —*SYN.* AGENT

De Quin-cy (dē kwīn'sē), Thomas 1785-1859; Eng. essayist & critic

de-rac-i-nate (dē ras'ə nāt', di-) vt. -nat'ed, -nat'-ing [*Fr déraciner < de- (L dis-), from + racine, a root < LL radicina < L radix (gen. radicit), ROOT*] 1 to pull up by or as by the roots; uproot; eradicate 2 to separate from one's roots or ties, esp. ethnic or national ones —de-rac-i-na-tion n. —de-rac-i-nat'ed adj.

de-rail (dē rāl') vt. [*Fr dérailler < de-, from (see DE-) + rail < OFr reille: see RAIL*] to cause (a train, etc.) to go off the rails —vi. to go off the rails —de-rail'-ment n.

de-rail-leur (dē rāl'ēr) n. [*Fr dérailleur, derailleur, with reference to the "derailing" of the chain from the sprocket*] a gear-shifting mechanism on a bicycle for controlling its speed by shifting the sprocket chain from one to another of a set of different-sized sprocket wheels

De-rain (dē ran'), An-dré (än drā') 1880-1954; Fr. painter

de-range (dē rānj', di-) vt. -rang'ed, -rang'-ing [*Fr dérangeur < OFr derengier < des- (L dis-), apart + rengier: see RANGE*] 1 to upset the arrangement, order, or operation of; unsettle; disorder 2 to make insane —de-rang'ed adj. —de-range'-ment n.

de-rate (dē rāt') vt. -rat'ed, -rat'-ing to reduce the electrical power rating of (a nuclear power plant, furnace, electrical component, etc.) to improve safety, reliability, or efficiency

Der-by (där'bē, chiefly Brit., dār'bē) n., pl. -bies 1 a race for three-year-old horses, run annually at Epsom Downs in Surrey 2 any similar horse race; esp., the Kentucky Derby *3 [d-] any of various contests or races, open to anyone who wishes to enter [a fishing derby; demolition derby] *4 [d-] a stiff felt hat with a round crown and curved brim; bowler

Der-by (där'bē, chiefly Brit., dār'bē) 1 city in Derbyshire, central England; county district pop. 219,000 2 DERBYSHIRE

Der-by-shire (där'bi shir, -shēr; chiefly Brit., dār'-) county in central England: 1,015 sq mi (2,629 sq km); pop. 929,000

de-real-i-za-tion (dē rē'al i zā'shən) n. a loss or lessening of one's sense of the reality of things, as in the reaction to certain drugs

de-regu-late (dē reg'yə lāt') vt. -lat'ed, -lat'-ing to remove regulations governing [to deregulate the price of natural gas] —de-reg'u-la-tion n.

Derek (der'ik) n. a masculine name: var. *Derrick*; equiv. Du. *Dirk*

der-el-ict (der'ə likt') adj. [*LL derelictus, pp. of derelinquere, to forsake utterly, abandon < de-, intens. + relinquere: see RELINQUISH*] 1 deserted by the owner; abandoned; forsaken *2 neglectful of duty; remiss; negligent —n. 1 a property abandoned by the owner; esp., an abandoned ship on the open sea 2 a destitute person, without a home or regular job and rejected by society 3 land exposed by the receding of water —*SYN.* REMISS

der-el-ic-tion (der'ə lik'shən) n. [*LL derelictio: see prec.*] 1 [Now Rare] an abandoning or forsaking 2 [Now Rare] the state of being abandoned or forsaken 3 a neglect of, or failure in, duty; a being remiss 4 Law the gaining of land from water by the gradual retreat of the sea below the usual watermark

de-rid (di rid') vt. -rid'ed, -rid'-ing [*LL deridere < de-, pejorative + ridere, to laugh: see RIDICULE*] to laugh at in contempt or scorn; make fun of; ridicule —*SYN.* RIDICULE —de-rid'-er n. —de-rid'-ingly adv.

de-ri-gueur (dä'ri gūr, də-) [Fr] 1 required by etiquette; according to good form; proper 2 required by fashion; fashionable

der-i-sion (di rizh'ən) n. [*ME < LL derisio < derisus, pp. of deridere, to deride or being derided; contempt or ridicule*] 2 [Rare] a deriding or thing derided

389 **depth charge / derogate**

der-iv-abbrev. 1 derivation 2 derived

der-i-va-tion (der'ə vā'shən) n. [*ME derivacioun < L derivatio < pp. of derivare: see DERIVE*] 1 a deriving or being derived 2 descent or origination 3 something derived; a derivative 4 the source or origin of something 5 the origin and development of a word; etymology 6 a) Gram. the process of forming words from bases by the addition of affixes other than inflectional morphemes, or by internal phonetic change [the derivation of "warmth" from "warm"] b) *Linguistics* in generative grammar, the process of forming sentences —der-i-va-tional adj.

de-riva-tive (dē riv'ə tiv) adj. [*ME derivatif < LL derivativus < L derivatus, pp. of derivare: see fol.*] 1 derived 2 using or taken from other sources; not original 3 of derivation —n. 1 something derived 2 Chem. a substance derived from, or of such composition and properties that it may be considered as derived from, another substance by chemical change, esp. by the substitution of one or more elements or radicals 3 Finance a contract, as an option or futures contract, whose value depends on the value of the securities, commodities, etc. that form the basis of the contract 4 *Linguistics* a word formed from another or others by derivation 5 Math. the limiting value of a rate of change of a function with respect to a variable; the instantaneous rate of change, or slope, of a function (Ex.: the derivative of y with respect to x, often written dy/dx, is 3 when y = 3x) —de-riv-a-tively adv.

de-rive (di riv') vt. -rived', -riv'-ing [*ME derivien < OFr derivier < L derivare, to divert, orig., to turn a stream from its channel < de-, from + rivus, a stream: see RIVAL*] 1 to get or receive (something) from a source 2 to get by reasoning; deduce or infer 3 to trace from or to a source; show the derivation of 4 Chem. to obtain or produce (a compound) from another compound by replacing one element with one or more other elements —vi. to come (from); be derived; originate —*SYN.* RISE —de-riv'-able adj. —de-riv'er n.

derm- (därm) combining form DERMATO-: used before a vowel

-derm (därm) [see fol.] combining form skin or covering [blastoder-m, endoderm]

derma¹ (där'mə) n. [*ModL < Gr derma, skin < IE base *der-, to skin, flay > TEAR*] DERMIS

derma² (där'mə) n. [*Yiddish derme, pl. of darm, gut < MHG < OHG daram < IE *tormo-s, hole < base *ter-, to rub, bore > THROW, Gr tormos, hole*] KISHKE

***derma-bra-sion** (där'mə brā'zhən) n. [*DERM(IS) + ABRASION*] the surgical procedure of scraping off upper layers of the epidermis with an abrasive device, as in seeking to repair acne scars, blemishes, etc.

der-mal (där'məl) adj. of the skin or the dermis

der-map-teran (där map'tər ən) n. [*< ModL Dermaptera (see DERMA¹ & PTERO-) + -AN*] EAWWIG

der-ma-ti-tis (där'mə tit'is) n. [*fol. + -ITIS*] inflammation of the skin: see DERMATOSIS

dermat- (där'mə tō; dər mat'ə, -ə) [*Gr dermatō- < derma (gen. dermatos), skin: see DERMA¹*] combining form skin or hide [dermatology]: also, before a vowel, dermat-

der-ma-to-gen (där'mə tō jən, dər mat'ə-) n. [*DERMATO- + -GEN*] Bot. a layer of dividing cells from which the epidermis is formed

***der-ma-to-glyph-ics** (där'mə tō glif'iks) pl. n. the patterns of skin ridges on the lower surface of the hand or foot —n. the study of these, as in medical diagnosis —der-ma-to-glyph'-ic adj.

der-ma-to-log-y (där'mə täl'ə jē) n. [*DERMATO- + -LOGY*] the branch of medicine dealing with the skin and its diseases —der-ma-to-log'ic (-tə lāj'ik) adj. or der-ma-to-log'i-cal (-lāj'i kəl) —der-ma-to-l'o-gist n.

der-ma-tome (där'mə tōm') n. [*DERMA¹ + -TOME*] any of the segmentally arranged mesodermal masses in a vertebrate embryo, destined to form dermis

der-ma-to-phyte (där'mə tō fit', dər mat'ə-) n. any plant parasitic on the skin, as the fungus that causes ringworm

der-ma-to-plasty (-plas'tē) n. [*DERMATO- + -PLASTY*] plastic surgery of the skin, as by skin grafts

der-ma-to-sis (där'mə tō'sis) n., pl. -to-ses' (-sēz') [*DERMAT(O-) + -OSIS*] any disorder of the skin: see DERMATITIS

der-mes-tid (där mes'tid) n. [*< ModL Dermestidae < Gr dermestēs, a leather-eating worm < derma, skin (see DERMA¹) + esthienai, to eat < esthi, imper. of edmenai, EAT*] any of a family (Dermestidae) of small, drab-colored beetles whose larvae and adults are destructive to hides, furs, woollens, cereals, etc.

der-mic (där'mik) adj. DERMAL

der-mis (där'mis) n. [*ModL, back-form. < LL epidermis, EPIDERMIS*] the layer of skin just below the epidermis: see SKIN, ILLUS.

dermo- (där'mō, -mə) [*< Gr derma: see DERMA¹*] combining form DERMATO-

der-moid (där'moid') adj. [*prec. + -OID*] 1 consisting of tissues of ectodermal origin, such as skin, hair, and teeth, as found in certain benign, congenital tumors 2 skinlike

der-mop-teran (där map'tər ən) n. [*< ModL Dermoptera < dermo-, DERMO- + -ptera (see PTERO-) + -AN*] FLYING LEMUR

der-nier cri (der nyä krē) [Fr, lit., the latest cry] the latest fashion; last word

dero-gate (der'ə gāt') vt. -gat'ed, -gat'-ing [*ME derogaten < L derogare, pp. of derogare, to repeal part of (a law), detract from < de-, from + rogare, to ask: see ROGATION*] 1 [Archaic] to take (a part or quality) away from something so as to impair it 2 [Rare] to

reaction, etc.) —SYN. EXTRACT

evolute (ev'ə lōt') *n.* [*L. evolutus*: see fol.] *Geom.* a curve that is the locus of the center of curvature of another curve (called the *involute*); the envelope of the perpendiculars, or normals, of the involute: see INVOLUTE, illus.

evolution (ev'ə lōō'shən; occas. ē'və-) *n.* [*L. evolutio*, an unrolling or opening < *evolutus*, pp. of *evolvere*: see EVOLVE] 1 an unfolding, opening out, or working out; process of development, as from a simple to a complex form, or of gradual, progressive change, as in a social and economic structure 2 a result or product of this; thing evolved 3 a) a movement that is part of a series or pattern b) a pattern produced, or seemingly produced, by such a series of movements [the evolutions of a fancy skater] 4 a setting free or giving off, as of gas in a chemical reaction 5 *Biol.* a) the development of a species; organism, or organ from its original or primitive state to its present or specialized state; phylogeny or ontogeny b) DARWINIAN THEORY (see LAMARCKISM, MUTATION) 6 *Math.* the extracting of a root of a given number: opposed to INVOLUTION 7 [Fr *évolution*] *Mil.* any of various movements or maneuvers by which troops, ships, etc. change formation —**evolu'tional** *adj.* —**evolu'tion-ally** *adv.* —**evolu'tion-ary** *adj.*

evolutionist (-ist) *n.* 1 a person who accepts the principles of biological evolution 2 a person who believes in the possibility of political and social progress by gradual, peaceful steps —**adj.** 1 of the theory of evolution 2 of evolutionists —**evolu'tion-ism** *n.* —**evolu'tion-is'tic** *adj.* —**evolu'tion-is'tically** *adv.*

evolve (ē'vōlv', -vōlv'; -i-) *vt.* evolved', *evol'ing* [*L. evolvere*, to roll out or forth < *e-*, out + *volvere*, to roll: see WALK] 1 to develop by gradual changes; unfold 2 to set free or give off (gas, heat, etc.) 3 to produce or change by evolution —**vi.** 1 to develop gradually by a process of growth and change. 2 to become disclosed; unfold —**evol've-ment** *n.*

evulsion (ē'vul'shən) *n.* [*ME evulsio* < *evulsio* < pp. of *evellere*, to pull out < *e-*, out + *vellere*, to pluck < *IE* base **wel-*, to tear, injure > *OE* *wæl*, slaughter] a pulling out by force, or uprooting

Ev-vola (ev'ē ə) *var.* of EUBOEA

ev-zōne (ev'zōn) *n.* [*ModGr euzōnos* < *Gr.* well-equipped, lit., well-girdled < *eu-*, well (see EU-) + *zōnē*, a girdle: see ZONE] a member of a special unit of riflemen in the Greek army whose uniform includes a wide skirt

ewe (yōō) *n.* [*ME ewe* < *OE eowu*, fem. of *eow*, sheep, akin to *Ger dial. aue*, a ewe < *IE* base **owi-s*, sheep, *L ovis*] a female sheep

Ewe (ā'wā, ā'vā) *n., pl. E'wes* or *E'we* 1 a member of a people of Togo and parts of Ghana and Benin 2 the Kwa language of this people

Ew-ell (yōō'əl), **Richard Stod-dert** (stād'ərt) 1817-72; Confederate general in the Civil War

ewe-neck (yōō'nek') *n.* a thin, badly arched neck sometimes occurring in horses and dogs —**ewe'-necked** *adj.*

ewer (yōō'er) *n.* [*ME* < *Anglo-Fr* < *Ofr evier* < *ML aquarium*, water pitcher < *L.* see AQUARIUM] a large water pitcher with a wide mouth

ex¹ (eks) *prep.* [*L.*] 1 without; exclusive of [ex dividend, ex interest] 2 out of; free of [ex warehouse means "free of charges until removed from the warehouse"] 3 of the (specified) college class, but not having graduated with it [Wm. Jones, Yale ex '61] —*n., pl. ex'es* [Informal] one's divorced husband or wife

ex² (eks) *n., pl. ex'es* the letter X

ex³ *abbrev.* 1 examined 2 example 3 exchange 4 executive 5 express 6 extra

Ex *abbrev.* Bible Exodus

ex⁻¹ (for 1 eks, iks, egz, igz; for 2 eks) [*ME* < *Ofr* or *L.* akin to *Gr ex-*, *exō-*, *ek-* < *IE* base **eghs*, out] *prefix* 1 a) forth, from, out [extubate] b) beyond [exurb] c) away from, out of [explant] d) thoroughly e) upward f) without, not having [exanguine]: it becomes *ef-* before *f*; *e-* before *b*, *d*, *g*, *j*, *l*, *m*, *n*, *r*, or *v*; often *ec-* before *c* or *s*; and, in many words of French origin, *es-* 2 former, previous, previously: used in hyphenated compounds [ex-president, ex-convict, ex-wife]

ex⁻² (eks) *prefix* EXO-: used before a vowel

exa- (ek'sə, eg'zə) *combining form* one quintillion; the factor 10¹⁸ [exajoule]

ex-ac-er-bate (eg zas'er bāt, ig-) *vt.* -bated', -bat-ing [*L. exacerbat*, pp. of *exacerbare*, to exasperate, make angry < *ex-*, intens. + *acerbus*, bitter: see ACERBITY] 1 to make more intense or sharp; aggravate (disease, pain, annoyance, etc.) 2 to exasperate; annoy; irritate; embitter —**ex-ac'er-ba-tion** *n.*

ex-act (eg zakt', ig-) *adj.* [*L. exactus* < pp. of *exigere*, to drive out, measure, determine < *ex-*, out + *agere*, to do: see ACT¹] 1 characterized by, requiring, or capable of accuracy of detail; very accurate; methodical; correct [an exact science] 2 not deviating in form or content; without variation; precise [an exact replica] 3 being the very (one specified or understood) [the exact spot where I put it] 4 strict; severe; rigorous [an exact disciplinarian] —**vt.** [*ME exāctēn*] 1 to force payment of; extort: with *from* or *of* 2 to demand and get by authority or force; insist on: with *from* or *of* 3 to call for; make necessary; require —**SYN.** DEMAND, EXPLICIT, CORRECT —**ex-act'-able** *adj.* —**ex-act'-ness** *n.* —**ex-act'-or** *n.* or **ex-act'er**

***ex-acta** (eg zakt'a, ig-) *n.* PERFECTA

ex-act-ing (eg zakt'ing, ig-) *adj.* 1 making severe or excessive demands; not easily satisfied; strict [an exacting teacher] 2

ex-ac-ti-tude (eg zakt'tə tōōd', -tyōōd'; ig-) *n.* [*IT*] the quality of being exact; precision; accuracy

ex-actly (eg zakt'lē, ig-) *adv.* in an exact manner; accurately; precisely: also used as an affirmative reply, equivalent to "quite true"

ex-ag-ger-ate (eg zaj'er āt', ig-) *vt.* -ated', -at-ing [*L. exaggerare*, pp. of *exaggerare*, to increase, exaggerate < *ex-*, out, up + *agere*, to heap up < *agger*, a heap < *aggerere*, to bring up + *ad-*, to + *gerere*, to carry: see GESTURE] 1 to think, speak, or write of as greater than is really so; magnify beyond the truth 2 to increase or enlarge to an extreme or abnormal degree; overemphasize; intensify —**vi.** to give an exaggerated description of an account —**ex-ag'-ger-at-ed-ly** *adv.* —**ex-ag'-gera-tion** *n.* —**ex-ag'-gera-tive** *adj.* —**ex-ag'-gera-tor** *n.*

ex-alt (eg zōlt', ig-) *vt.* [*ME exalten* < *Ofr exalter* < *LL exaltare* < *ex-*, out, up + *altus*, high: see OLD] 1 to raise or high; elevate; lift up; specif., a) to raise in status, dignity, power, honor, wealth, etc. b) to praise; glorify; extol c) to fill with joy; pride, etc. elate (used in the passive or in participial form) d) to heighten or intensify the action or effect of —**ex-alt'-ed-ly** *adv.* —**ex-alt'er** *n.*

ex-al-ta-tion (eg zōl tā'shən) *n.* [*ME exaltacioun* < *LL exaltatio*] 1 an exalting or being exalted 2 a feeling of great joy, pride, power, etc.; elation; rapture

exam (eg zam', ig-) *n.* short for EXAMINATION

exa-men (eg zā'mən, ig-) *n.* [*L.* see EXAMINE] 1 an examination or detailed study 2 *Eccles.* a methodical scrutiny of one's conscience

ex-ami-na-tion (eg zam'ə nā'shən, ig-) *n.* [*ME examinacioun* < *Ofr examinatio* < *L examinatio*: see EXAMINE] 1 an examining or being examined; investigation; inspection; checkup; scrutiny; inquiry; testing 2 means or method of examining 3 a set of questions asked in testing or interrogating; test

ex-ami-na-to-ri-al (-nə'tōr'ē əl) *adj.* of or having to do with an examiner or examination

ex-am-ine (eg zam'ən, ig-) *vt.* -ined', -in-ing [*ME examiner* < *Ofr examiner* < *L examinare*, to weigh, ponder, examine < *ex-*, out + *agere*, to lead, move: see ACT¹] 1 to look at or into critically or methodically in order to find out the facts, condition, etc. of; investigate; inspect; scrutinize; inquire into 2 to test by carefully questioning in order to find out the knowledge, skill, qualifications, etc. of [a student, witness, job applicant, etc.] —**SYN.** SCRUTINIZE —**ex-am'-inable** *adj.*

ex-ami-nee (eg zam'ə nē, ig-) *n.* a person being or to be examined

ex-am-iner (eg zam'ə nər, ig-) *n.* a person who examines; specif., one whose work is examining records, people, etc.: also **ex-am'-nant** (-nənt)

ex-am-ple (eg zam'pəl, ig-, -zām-) *n.* [*ME* < *Ofr exemplum*, *ex-ample* < *L exemplum*, sample, example < *eximere*, to take out < *ex-*, out + *emere*, to buy < *IE* base **em-*, to take > *Lith imti*] 1 something selected to show the nature or character of the rest; single part or unit used as a sample; typical instance 2 a case, punishment, etc. that serves as a warning or caution [to fine a speeder as an example to others] 3 a person or thing to be imitated; model; pattern; precedent 4 a problem, as in mathematics, designed to illustrate a principle or method —**vt.** -pled', -pling to exemplify; obs., except in the passive —**SYN.** INSTANCE, MODEL —**for example** as an example; by way of illustration —**set an example** to behave so as to be a pattern or model for others to imitate

ex-ani-mate (eks an'ə mit) *adj.* [*L. exanimatus*, pp. of *exanimare*, to deprive of air, kill < *ex-*, out of + *anima*, air, spirit (see ANIMAL) < *-ATE*] 1 dead; inanimate 2 without animation; spiritless; inert

ex-an-them (eks an'them) *n.* [*LL exanthema* < *Gr exanthema*, efflorescence, eruption < *exanthein*, to bloom < *ex-*, out + *anthein*, to flower < *anthos*: see ANTHO-] 1 a skin eruption or rash occurring in certain infectious diseases; as measles 2 an infectious disease characterized by such eruptions. Also **ex-an-the-mia** (eks'an'the'miā) *n., pl. -mas* or *-matas* (-them'ə taz, -thē'mə-)

ex-arch¹ (eks'ārk') *n.* [*LL exarchus*, overseer of monasteries < *Gr exarchos*, leader, chief (in LG, prefect, bishop): see EX- & ARCH] 1 a governor of an outlying province in the ancient Byzantine Empire 2 the supreme head of the independent Orthodox Church of Bulgaria 3 *Eastern Orthodox Ch.* a) [Historical] an archbishop or patriarch b) now, a bishop or other member of the clergy serving as a patriarch's deputy or legate —**ex'-arch'al** *adj.*

ex-arch² (eks'ārk') *adj.* [*EX-* + *Gr archē*, beginning] *Bot.* having the primary xylem maturing from the outer part of a stem toward the center: cf. ENDARCH

ex-arch-ate (eks ār'kit, -kāt; eks'ār'-) *n.* [*ML exarchatus*] the position, rank, or province of an exarch

ex-as-per-ate (eg zas'pər āt', ig-) *vt.* -ated', -at-ing [*L. exasperare*, pp. of *exasperare* < *ex-*, out, from + *asperare*, to roughen < *asper*, rough: see ASPERITY] 1 to irritate or annoy very much; make angry; vex 2 [Archaic] to intensify (a feeling, disease, etc.) aggravate —**SYN.** IRRITATE

ex-as-per-ate (eg zas'pər it, -āt) *adj.* [*L. exasperatus*: see *prec.*] 1 [Archaic] exasperated 2 *Bot.* having rough and prickly skin

ex-as-pera-tion (eg zas'pər ā'shən, ig-) *n.* an exasperating or being exasperated; great irritation or annoyance

exc *abbrev.* except

Ex-cal-l-bur (eks kal'i bər) *n.* [*ME* < *Ofr Escalibor* < *ML Caliburnus* < *Celt*] Arthurian Legend King Arthur's sword: in one

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on-slaught (än'slät) *n.* [altered (infl. by SLAUGHTER) < Du *anslag* < *slagen*, to strike: see SLAY] a violent, intense attack

on-stage (än'stāj) *adj., adv.* on a stage, before an audience

on-stream or **on-stream** (än'strēm) *adv.* into operation or production [a new refinery coming onstream]

Ont Ontario

On-tar-io (än'ter'ä ö) 1 [after Lake Ontario] province of SC Canada, between the Great Lakes & Hudson Bay: 412,580 sq mi (1,068,578 sq km); pop. 10,754,000; cap. Toronto: abbrev. *ON* or *Ont* 2 [after the Cdn province] city in S Calif.: pop. 133,000 3 Lake [< Fr < Iroquoian, lit., fine lake] smallest & easternmost of the Great Lakes, between N.Y. & Ontario, Canada: 7,540 sq mi (19,529 sq km) — **On-tar'-ian** *adj., n.*

on-tic (än'tik) *adj.* [ONT(O)- + -IC] having the status of real and ultimate existence — **on-ti-cally** *adv.*

onto (än'tō) *prep.* 1 to and upon; to a position on *2 [Slang] aware of or familiar with, esp. aware of the real nature or meaning of [they're onto our schemes]

onto- (än'tō, -tə) [< Gr *on* (gen. *ontos*), prp. of *einai*, to be < IE base **es-* > *IS*] combining form 1 being, existence [ontology] 2 organism [ontogeny] Also, before a vowel, **ont-**

on-to-gen-y (än'tä'jə nē) *n., pl. -nies* [prec. + -GENY] the life cycle of a single organism; biological development of the individual: distinguished from PHYLOGENY: also called **on-to-gen-es-is** (än'tä'jən'ē sis) — **on-to-gen-et-ic** (än'tä'jə net'ik) *adj.* or **on-to-gen'ic** (-jen'ik)

ontological argument *Metaphysics* an a priori argument for the existence of God, asserting that the conception of a perfect being implies that being's existence outside the human mind

on-to-log-y (än'täl'ə jē) *n.* [ModL *ontologia*: see ONTO- & -LOGY] 1 the branch of metaphysics dealing with the nature of being, reality, or ultimate substance: cf. PHENOMENOLOGY 2 *pl. -gies* a particular theory about being or reality — **on-to-logi-cal** (än'tä'läj'i kəl) *adj.* — **on-to-log'i-cally** *adv.* — **on-to-lo-gist** *n.*

onus (ö'nas) *n.* [L, a load, burden < IE base **enos-* or **onos-* > Sans *anah*, freight cart] 1 a difficult or unpleasant task, duty, etc.; burden 2 responsibility for a wrong; blame 3 [clip of L *onus probandi*, burden of proving] BURDEN OF PROOF

on-ward (än'wärd) *adv.* [ME: see ON & -WARD] toward or at a position or point ahead in space or time; forward: also **on'wards** — *adj.* moving or directed onward or ahead; advancing [an onward trend]

onym (ə nim) combining form name or word [acronym]

onyx (än'iks) *n.* [ME *onix* < OFr < L *onyx* < Gr, the NAIL: its color resembles that of the fingernail] 1 a variety of agate with alternate colored layers, used as a semiprecious stone, esp. in making cameos 2 a translucent, finely crystalline calcite, often banded, found in stalagmites: also called **onyx marble**

oo- (ö'ö, ö'ä) [< Gr *ōion*, EGG] combining form egg or ovum [oogenesis]

oocyte (ö'ö sit', ö'ä-) *n.* [prec. + -CYTE] Embryology an egg that has not yet undergone maturation

OOD abbrev. 1 Officer of the Day 2 Officer of the Deck

oo-dies (öö'diz) *pl.n.* [< ?] [Informal] a great amount; very many

oo-ga-mous (ö äg'ə mas) *adj.* [OO- + -GAMOUS] characterized by the uniting of a large, nonmotile egg and a small, active sperm for reproduction — **oo-ga-my** (-mē) *n.*

oo-gen-es-is (ö'ö jen'ē sis, ö'ä-) *n.* [OO- + -GENESIS] Biol. the process by which the ovum is formed in preparation for its development — **oo-gen-et-ic** (-jə net'ik) *adj.*

oo-go-nium (-gö'nē am) *n., pl. -nia* (-ə) or **-ni-ums** [ModL < OO- + -GONIUM] 1 the female reproductive organ in certain algae and fungi, consisting of a large cell in which the eggs (oospheres) are developed 2 Embryology any of the cells from which the oocytes derive

oo (ö) *interj.* used variously to express surprise, enthusiasm, delight, displeasure, etc. — *vi.* to utter this exclamation [they oohed and aahed over the baby]

oolite (ö'ö lit', ö'ä-) *n.* [Fr *oolithe*: see OO- & -LITE] 1 a tiny, spherical or ellipsoid particle with concentric layers, usually of calcium carbonate, formed in wave-agitated sea waters 2 a rock composed chiefly of oolites Also **oolith** (-lith) — **oolith'ic** (-lit'ik) *adj.*

oo-log-y (ö ä'l'ə jē) *n.* [OO- + -LOGY] that branch of zoology concerned with the study of eggs, esp. birds' eggs — **oo-logi-cal** (ö'ö läj'i kəl) *adj.* — **oo-lo-gist** *n.*

oo-long (öö'lön) *n.* [Chin dial. form of *wulong*, lit., black dragon] a dark tea from China and Taiwan that is partly fermented before being dried

oo-miac or **oo-miak** (öö'mē ak') *n.* UMIAC

oo-m-pah or **oom-pah** (ööm'pā') *n.* [echoic] the sound of a repeated, rhythmic bass figure played as by a tuba in a marching band also **oom'-pah'-pah'**

oo-mp (ömf, ömf) *n.* [echoic of involuntary expression of approval] [Slang] 1 sex appeal 2 vigor; energy

oo-rec-tomy (ö'ö fə rek'tə mē, ö'ä-) *n., pl. -mies* [OOPHOR(O)- + -TOMY] the surgical removal of one or both ovaries

oo-ri-tis (-rit'is) *n.* [ModL: see fol. + -ITIS] inflammation of an ovary or the ovaries

may, or, sometimes, implied apology, after one has blundered, tripped, broken something, misspoken, etc.

Oort cloud (ört) [after J. Oort (1900-92), Du astronomer] a moving mass of icy cosmic debris thought to exist in the vast region beyond Pluto and to be the source of the comets that orbit the sun

oosperm (ö'ö spärm', ö'ä-) *n.* [OO- + -SPERM] obs. var. of ZYGOTE

oosphere (-sfir') *n.* [OO- + -SPHERE] Bot. any of the large, spherical, nonmotile, unfertilized eggs that develop in an oogonium

oospore (-spôr') *n.* [OO- + SPORE] Bot. a thick-walled, resting spore produced by the fertilization of an oosphere

Oost-ende (ös ten'də) *Fl. name* for OSTEND

ootheca (ö'ö the'ka, ö'ä-) *n., pl. -cae* (-sē) [ModL < OO- + Gr *thēkē*: see THECA] an egg case, as of certain mollusks and insects — **oothec'al** *adj.*

ootid (ö'ö tid, ö'ä-) *n.* [OO- + -t- + -ID] a large, haploid cell produced at the second meiotic division, that quickly becomes an egg cell

ooze¹ (ööz) *n.* [ME *wose* < OE *wos*, sap, juice, akin to MLowG *wose*, scum < IE base **wes-*, wet: meaning infl. by OE *wase*, mire: see fol.] 1 an infusion of oak bark, sumac, etc., used in tanning leather 2 [< the v.] a) an oozing; gentle flow b) something that oozes — *vi.* **oozed**, **ooz'ing** 1 to flow or leak out slowly, as through very small holes; seep 2 to give forth moisture, as through pores 3 to escape or disappear gradually [hope oozed away] — *vt.* 1 to give forth, or exude (a fluid) 2 to seem to radiate [to ooze confidence]

ooze² (ööz) *n.* [ME *wose* < OE *wase*, < IE base **weis-*, to flow away > L *uirus*] 1 soft mud or slime; esp., the deep layers of sediment at the bottom of a lake, ocean, etc. 2 an area of muddy ground; bog

ooze leather leather of calfskin, sheepskin, or goatskin with a velvety or suede finish on the flesh side

oozy¹ (ööz'ē) *adj.* -zily, -zi-est oozing; giving forth moisture — **oo'-zily** *adv.* — **oo'-zi-ness** *n.*

oozy² (ööz'ē) *adj.* -zily, -zi-est full of or like ooze; slimy — **oo'-zily** *adv.* — **oo'-zi-ness** *n.*

op¹ (äp) *n.* OP ART

op² (äp) *n.* [Slang] short for: *1 OPERATIVE (n. 2) *2 OPPORTUNITY

op³ abbrev. 1 opera 2 operation 3 opposite 4 opus 5 out of print

OP abbrev. 1 observation post 2 Order of Preachers (Dominicans) 3 out of print

op- (äp, əp) *prefix* OB-: used before *p* [oppress]

opa-city (ö pas'ə tē) *n.* [Fr *opacité* < L *opacitas* < *opacus*, shady] 1 the state, quality, or degree of being opaque 2 *pl. -ties* something opaque, as a spot on the cornea or lens of an eye

opah (ö'pä) *n.* [W Afr (Ibo) *úbà*] a very large, brightly colored, silvery, marine bony fish (*Lampris guttatus*, order Lampriformes)

opal (ö'pal) *n.* [L *opalus* < Gr *opallios* < Sans *upalah*, (precious) stone] an amorphous, iridescent mineral, SiO₂·n H₂O, of various colors, often used as a gem; hydrous silicon oxide

opal-es-cent (ö'pal es'sent) *adj.* [prec. + -ESCENT] showing a play of colors like that of the opal; iridescent — **opal-esce'** *vi.* — **esced'**, — **esc-ing** — **opal-es'-cence** *n.*

opal-ine (ö'päl'ēn', -līn', -lin) *adj.* [OPAL + -INE] of or like opal

opaque (ö päk') *adj.* [ME *opake* < L *opacus*, shady] 1 not letting light pass through; not transparent or translucent 2 not reflecting light; not shining or lustrous; dull or dark 3 not allowing electricity, heat, etc. to pass through 4 hard to understand; obscure 5 slow in understanding; obtuse — *n.* 1 anything opaque 2 *Photog.* an opaque liquid used in blocking out parts of a negative — *vt.* **opaqued**, **opaqu'ing** 1 to make opaque 2 *Photog.* to apply opaque to (a negative) — **opaque'ly** *adv.* — **opaque'-ness** *n.*

***opaque projector** a projector for throwing images on a screen by reflecting light from opaque objects

***op art** (äp) [< OP(TICAL)] a style of abstract painting utilizing geometric patterns or figures to create various optical effects, such as the illusion of movement

op. cit. abbrev. [L *opere citato*] in the work cited

ope (öp) *adj., vt., vi.* **oped**, **op'ing** [ME < *open(en)*] old poet. var. of OPEN

OPEC (ö'pek') *n.* Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries: an association of major oil-producing nations which seeks to control crude-oil prices by setting production limits for each member nation

***Op-Ed** (äp'ed') *adj.* [Op(posite) Ed(itorial page)] [often **op-ed**] designating, or appearing on, a page in a newspaper, usually the one opposite the editorial page, that features columns, freelance articles, letters, etc. expressing varied opinions and observations — *n.* an Op-Ed page or an article, column, etc. appearing on an Op-Ed page

open (ö'pen) *adj.* [ME < OE, akin to Ger *offen* < PGmc **upana*: for IE base see UP] 1 a) in a state which permits access, entrance, or exit; not closed, covered; clogged; or shut [open doors] b) closed, but unlocked [the car is open] 2 a) in a state which permits freedom of view or passage; not enclosed, fenced in, sheltered, screened, etc.; unobstructed; clear [open fields] b) having few or no trees, houses, etc. [open country] 3 unsealed; unwrapped 4 a) not covered over; without covering, top, etc. b) vulnerable to attack, etc.; unprotected or undefended (see also OPEN CITY) 5 spread out;